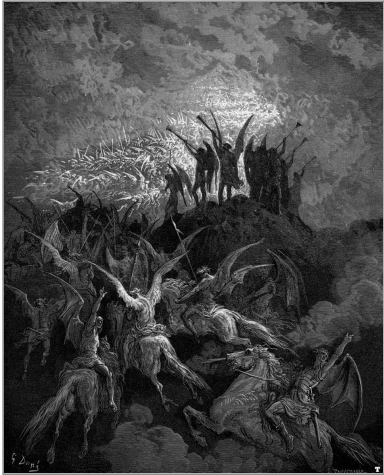
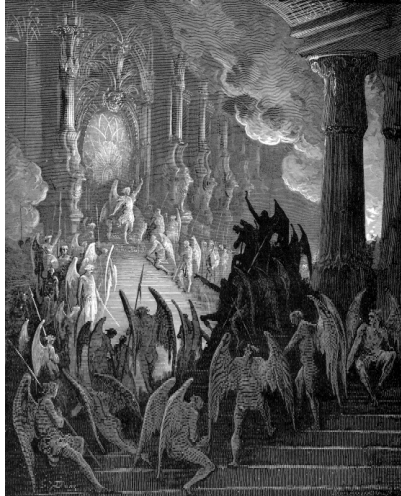
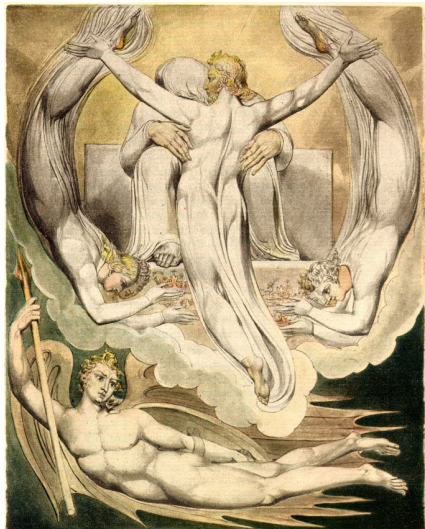
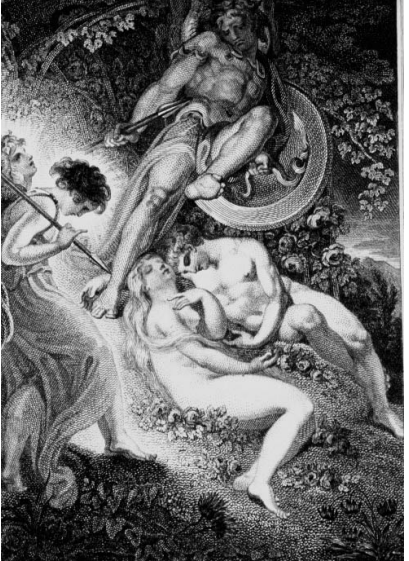


Summary (New Arts Library)	Milton's Original (Hale)	Limerick (Wyville)
<p>Book I</p> <p>A brief introduction mentions the fall of Adam and Eve caused by the serpent, which was Satan, who led the angels in revolt against God and was cast into hell. The scene then opens on Satan lying dazed in the burning lake, with Beelzebub, next in command, beside him. Satan assembles his fallen legions on the shore, where he revives their spirits by his speech. They set to building a palace, called Pandemonium. There the high ranking angels assemble in council.</p>	<p><u>Narrator</u> Of man's first disobedience, and the fruit Of that forbidden tree, whose mortal taste Brought death into the world, and all our woe, . . . Sing heavenly Muse . . . Say first what cause Moved our grand parents in that happy state, Favoured of heaven so highly, to fall off . . .? Who first seduced them to that foul revolt? The infernal serpent, he it was, what time His pride had cast him out from heaven . . . Him the almighty Power Hurl'd headlong flaming from the ethereal sky To bottomless perdition . . .But his doom Reserved him to more wrath</p> <p><u>Satan</u> What though the field be lost? All is not lost. Better to reign in hell than serve in heaven.</p>	<p>Beelzebub said: 'Let's give in. We'll suffer the less for our sin.' But Satan would rather Strike back at the Father With cunning, still hoping to win.</p> 
<p>Book II</p> <p>A debate is held whether or not to attempt recovery of heaven. A third proposal is preferred, concerning an ancient prophecy of another world which was to be created, where the devils may seek to enact their revenge. Satan alone undertakes the voyage to find this world. He encounters Sin and Death, his offspring, guarding hell's gates. Sin unlocks the gate, and Satan embarks on his passage across the great gulf of chaos between heaven and hell, till he sights the new universe floating near the larger globe which is heaven.</p>	<p><u>Beelzebub</u> There is a place, Another world, the happy seat Of some new race called man: perhaps we may Seduce the puny habitants of this new world, That God, their foe, abolish his own works.</p> <p><u>Satan</u> But first whom shall we send In search of this new world, whom shall we find Sufficient?</p> <p><u>Narrator</u> This said, he sat; and expectation held His look suspense, awaiting who appeared To second or oppose or undertake The perilous attempt; but all sat mute . . . Until at last, Satan, unmoved, thus spake:</p> <p><u>Satan</u> Wherefore do I assume These royalties, and refuse to reign, Refusing to accept as great a share Of hazard as of honour? Go therefore mighty powers, Terror of heaven, though fallen, intend at home What best may ease the present misery, While I abroad Through all the coasts of dark destruction seek Deliverance for us all: this enterprise None shall partake with me.</p>	<p>Satan rallied his troops with a shout, And explained what revenge is about. They concocted a plan For the ruin of man, Then he hastened to carry it out.</p> 

<p>Book III</p> <p>God sees Satan flying towards this world and foretells the success of his evil mission to tempt man. God explains his purpose of grace and mercy toward man, but declares that justice must be met nonetheless. His Son, who sits at his right hand, freely offers to sacrifice himself for man's salvation, causing the angels to celebrate in songs of praise.</p> <p>Meanwhile Satan alights upon the outer shell of the new creation, where he finds an opening to the universe within. He flies down to the sun, upon which an angel, Uriel, stands guard. Disguised as a cherub, Satan pretends he has come to praise God's new creation, and thereby tricks the angel into showing him the way to man's home.</p>	<p>Narrator Now had the almighty Father from above Thus to his only Son foreseeing said: Father Only begotten Son, seest thou what rage Transports our Adversary . . . So will fall Man and his faithless progeny: whose fault? Whose but Man's own? I made him just and right. Sufficient to have stood, though free to fall.</p>	<p>Man will fall. Could it be that God blew it? No. It's predicted. God knew it. Man's salvation to buy, Someone else has to die. The Son of God offers to do it.</p>  <p><i>"Father, thy word is passed, Man shall find grace, And shall Grace not find means, that finds her way, The speaker of thy winged messengers, To visit all thy creatures?"</i></p>
<p>Book IV</p> <p>Landing atop Mt. Niphates, Satan experiences disillusionment, but soon proceeds on his evil errand. He easily gains secret entrance to the Garden of Paradise. He wonders at its beauty, and soon comes upon Adam and Eve, who excite great envy in him at their happy state. He overhears them speak of God's commandment that they should not eat the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil under penalty of death, and thereby plots to cause them to transgress.</p> <p>Uriel, becoming suspicious, comes to warn Gabriel and his angels, who are guarding the gate of Paradise. That evening, two scouts sent by Gabriel find Satan whispering in the ear of Eve as she sleeps next to her husband. The scouts apprehend and bring Satan to Gabriel who banishes him from Eden.</p>	<p>Narrator Beneath him with new wonder Satan views A heaven on earth, a paradise, all kind Of living creatures new to sight or strange: Two of far nobler shape erect and tall, Godlike erect, with naked honour clad In naked majesty seemed lords of all. . . Adam the goodliest man of men since born His sons, the fairest of her daughters Eve. Adam (speaking to Eve) Sole partner and sole part of all these joys, Dearer thyself than all: needs must the Power That made us, and for us this ample world, Be infinitely good, and of his good As liberal and free as infinite. Then let us not think hard One easy prohibition, who enjoy Free leave so large to all things else. . . Eve (speaking adoringly to Adam) O thou for whom And from whom I was formed flesh of thy flesh And without whom am to no end, my guide And head, what thou hast said is just and right. Narrator Thus talking hand in hand alone they passed On to their blissful bower. Sleep on, Blest pair; and O yet happiest if ye seek No happier state, and know to know no more.</p>	<p>Into Eden the enemy crept, Almost turned sentimental, and wept, But hardened his heart And soon made a start By tempting poor Eve while she slept.</p> 

Books V-VIII are “flashbacks” of the story of creation, with the angel Raphael warning Adam and Eve

BOOK V

Next morning, Eve relates to Adam a troublesome dream, and is comforted by him. God sends the angel Raphael to visit the couple to warn them of their enemy. The angel arrives and dines with them, then relates to them the history of Satan's fall: how jealousy against the Son of God led him to incite all those in his charge to rebel against God, and how one angel, Abdiel, resisted and remained faithful to God.

BOOK VI

Raphael continues to relate how Michael was sent to lead the faithful angels into battle against Satan (then called Lucifer) and his army. Wounded and in disarray, Satan and his powers retreat. During the night they invent weapons resembling cannons. When, in the second day's fight, Michael's angels are confronted with these devilish devices, they become enraged and pull up the very mountains and hurl them at Satan's crew. But the war continues into the third day, when God sends Messiah, his Son, to end the war. Riding forth in his flaming chariot, Messiah drives the rebels out of heaven and down into hell.

BOOK VII

Raphael then relates to Adam how God sent his Son to create a new world and new creatures to fill the place left by the fallen angels. The six days of creation are described.

BOOK VIII

Adam, desiring to extend the pleasurable visit with the angel, relates to Raphael what he remembers of his own creation, his first impressions of the world and its creatures, the Garden of Eden, and his first meeting and marriage to Eve. After repeating his warnings to Adam, the angel departs.

New Arts Library. *Paradise Lost: The Summary Paraphrased*. 1999. 17 Jan. 2006 <<http://www.paradiselost.org/5-sum-simp.html>>.



Hale, John K. “Paradise Lost in 12 Minutes.” *Milton at Otago*. 17 Jan. 2006 <<http://www.otago.ac.nz/English/milton/interpret/PLlimerick.html>>.

Book V

Raphael soon dropped in for a visit.
His warnings were stern and explicit.
A sinister stranger
Would place them in danger.
They wondered: "This "danger" . . . what is it?"

Book VI

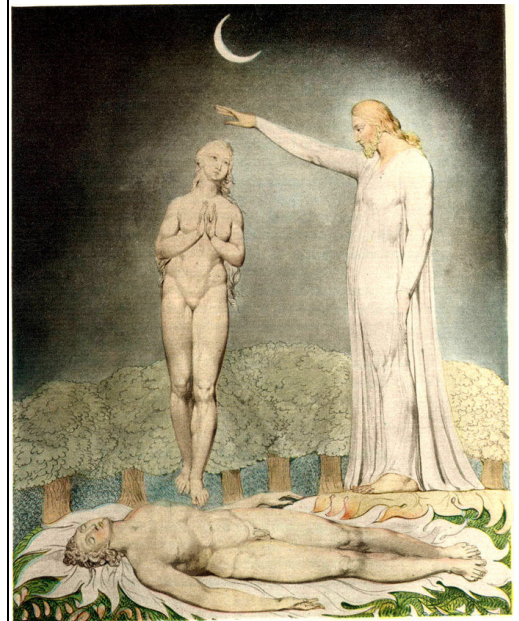
Raphael tells of two days of war
Between matched angels — a draw.
On the third day God's Son
Came to join in the fun,
And the rebels were dropped in Hell's maw.

Book VII

Still more of the angel's oration:
He described (at great length) the Creation.
It's a tale to amaze:
It took only six days.
Adam listened in rapt admiration.

Book VIII

Then Adam spoke, thrilled to the core.
He said, 'Eve's the one I adore!'
Raphael sighed.
He replied,
'But make sure it's god you love more.'



THE CREATION OF EVE

*Under his forming hands a creature grew,
Man-like, but different sex, so lovely fair
That what seemed fair in all the world seemed none
Mean*

Wyvill, Carol. “Paradise Lost: The Limerick.” *Milton at Otago*. 2000. 17 Jan. 2006 <<http://www.otago.ac.nz/English/milton/interpret/PLlimerick.html>>.